

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. An apparatus to catch selected articles introduced into a sewer pipe, comprising:
 - 5 a. a cylindrical housing having a portion of said housing being comprised of a substantially clear material such that the interior of said housing can be visibly inspected;
 - b. a tubular member mounted within and parallel to said housing having an upper and lower section, said upper section being mounted in said clear section of said housing;
 - 10 c. a hook assembly operatively attached to said lower section of said tubular member;
 - d. an upper stop operatively attached and substantially perpendicular to said upper section of said tubular member;
 - 15 e. a lower stop operatively attached within and perpendicular to said housing forming a chamber between said upper stop and said lower stop;
 - f. a kinetic energy store operatively configured around said tubular member and between said upper stop and said lower stop.
- 20 2. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said hook assembly comprises at least one prong having a pointed end and further comprising an attaching unit by which said hook assembly may be

operatively connected to said tubular member thereby permitting the movement of said hook assembly about said tubular member;

3. An apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising a removable connection for attaching said apparatus to said sewer pipe.

5. An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said removable connection is a threaded connection to said sewer pipe.

10. An apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said hook assembly comprises at least four prongs.

15. An apparatus according to claim 5 further comprising a lower guide configured to position said tubular member within said housing.

20. An apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising a sealing member between said housing and said sewer pipe configured to prevent leakage from said pipe.

25. An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said kinetic energy store is a spring.

30. An apparatus to catch selected articles introduced into a sewer pipe, comprising:

35. a. a cylindrical housing having a portion of said housing being comprised of a substantially clear material such that the interior of said housing can be visibly inspected;

40. b. a tubular member mounted within and parallel to said housing having an upper and lower section, said upper section being mounted in said clear section of said housing;

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c. a hook assembly operatively attached to said lower section of said tubular member, said hook assembly having at least one prong having a pointed end and further comprising an attaching unit by which said hook assembly may be operatively connected to said tubular member thereby permitting the movement of said hook assembly about said tubular member;

d. an upper stop operatively attached and substantially perpendicular to said upper section of said tubular member;

e. a lower stop operatively attached within and perpendicular to said housing forming a chamber between said upper stop and said lower stop;

f. a kinetic energy store operatively configured around said tubular member and between said upper stop and said lower stop; and

10 g. a removable connection for attaching said apparatus to said sewer pipe.

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10. An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said removable connection is a threaded connection to said sewer pipe.

11. An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said hook assembly comprises at least four prongs.

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12. An apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising a lower guide configured to position said tubular member within said housing.

13. An apparatus according to claim 12 further comprising a sealing member between said housing and said sewer pipe configured to prevent leakage from said pipe.

14. An apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said kinetic energy store is a spring.

15. An apparatus to catch selected articles introduced into a sewer pipe, comprising:

- a. a cylindrical housing;
- b. a tubular member mounted within and parallel to said housing having an upper and lower section, said upper section being mounted in said clear section of said housing;
- c. a hook assembly operatively attached to said lower section of said tubular member;
- d. an indicator operatively attached to said tubular member and configured to provide a visible indicator to a user of said apparatus;
- e. an upper stop operatively attached and substantially perpendicular to said upper section of said tubular member;
- f. a lower stop operatively attached within and perpendicular to said housing forming a chamber between said upper stop and said lower stop; and
- g. a kinetic energy store operatively configured around said tubular member and between said upper stop and said lower stop.

16. An apparatus according to claim 15 wherein said hook assembly comprises at least one prong having a pointed end and further comprising an attaching unit by which said hook assembly may be operatively connected to said tubular member thereby permitting the movement of said hook assembly about said tubular member;

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17. An apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising a removable connection for attaching said apparatus to said sewer pipe.

18. An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said removable connection is a threaded connection to said sewer pipe.

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19. An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said hook assembly comprises at least four prongs.

20. An apparatus according to claim 19 further comprising a lower guide configured to position said tubular member within said housing.

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21. An apparatus according to claim 20 further comprising a sealing member between said housing and said sewer pipe configured to prevent leakage from said pipe.

22. An apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said kinetic energy store is a spring.